

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 02755 060722Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 HA-05 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11
TRSE-00 /079 W
-----010470 070305Z /62

R 060710Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 283
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2755

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, KS
SUBJECT: ROKG IGNORES CRITICAL EASTER MESSAGE BY CARDINAL

1. CARDINAL KIM'S EASTER MESSAGE CONTAINED MESSAGES WHICH WERE CRITICAL OF STATE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE IN KOREA...IN ONE PART OF THE STATEMENT HE NOTED: "IN THIS COUNTRY, A FEW RIGHTEOUS PEOPLE CRIED OUT COURAGEOUSLY FOR JUSTICE AND AS A CONSEQUENCE THEY WERE TRIED AND PERSECUTED. MOST OF US COULD NOT DO ANYTHING TO HELP THEM. WE BECAME CONFUSED AND INDIFFERENT. WE DEPLORE OUR INERTIA. INJUSTICE STINKS IN EVERY CORNER OF OUR SOCIETY, BUT OUR NOSES DO NOT SMELL THE STENCH BECAUSE THEY HAVE BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO IT". THE CARDINAL SAID THAT IF CHRISTIANS BELIEVED IN THE RESURRECTION THEY WOULD TAKE NEW HEART IN THEIR EFFORTS TO BRING SOCIETY THE MESSAGE OF JUSTICE.

2. SOURCES IN THE CARDINAL'S OFFICE INDICATED THAT THE EASTER MESSAGE WAS DESIGNED TO BE HARD HITTING. IT WAS READ AT ALL CATHOLIC CHURCHES IN SEOUL AND PUBLISHED IN THE CATHOLICNEWSPAPER. THESE SOURCES SAID THEY EXPECTED
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THE SECULAR NEWS MEDIA TO REFUSE TO TOUCH THE MESSAGE. MOST NEWSPAPERS MERELY MENTIONED THAT THE CARDINAL HAD ISSUED AN EASTER STATEMENT AND THAT ITS TEHEME WAS "JUSTICE". HOWEVER, CHOSUN ILBO PRINTED THE FULL TEXT IN ITS EASTER SUNDAY SUPPLEMENT WORD FOR WORD.

3. SOURCES IN THE CARDINAL'S OFFICE SAID ROKG HAD

NOT RESPONDED IN ANY WAY TO THE EASTER MESSAGE. THEY
OPINED THAT THE ROKG HAD BECOME SO INSENSITIVE TO HUMAN
RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE THAT IT NO LONGER EVEN
RESPONDED TO CRITICISM.

4. COMMENT: THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE ROKG IS
AWARE OF THE INTENT OF THE CARDINAL'S MESSAGE. THE
FACT THAT IT HAS IGNORED MESSAGE SO FAR, HOWEVER,
FITS THE ROKG'S CURRENT PATTERN OF HIGHER TOLERATION
OF CRITICISM.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, SPEECHES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: n/a
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Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780149-1074
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780485/aaaacufa.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 52855cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: PINS, SHUM, KS
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